

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-28 (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A method for reducing pump light in a region of a laser light exit of a laser resonator fiber, comprising the steps of:

providing said laser resonator fiber as comprising a fiber core surrounded by a pump fiber comprising an inner fiber portion which in turn is surrounded by a sheath;

at a light entrance end of said pump fiber, inputting pump light so that laser light arises in said fiber core and exits from said fiber core at said laser light exit; and

at a last section of said pump fiber preceding said laser light exit, ~~removing at least a portion of the sheath to allow~~ allowing substantial remaining pump light to escape from the pump fiber and thus to reduce pump light from being emitted with the laser light at said laser light exit by removing at least a portion of the sheath at said last section.

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29 including the step of at least partially stripping said last section of said sheath.

31. (previously presented) The method according to claim 30 wherein the sheath is entirely stripped away at said last section.

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29 wherein during manufacture of said last section only at least a part of said sheath is provided thereon.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 32 wherein during manufacture of said last section no sheath is provided thereon at all.

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29 including the step of providing said sheath such that a diameter thereof tapers in wedge-like fashion toward said light exit in a region of said last section.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29 including the step of removing at least the portion of said sheath at said section by etching.

36. (currently amended) A fiber laser, comprising:

a pump light;

a laser fiber core as a laser resonator surrounded by a pump fiber comprising an inner fiber portion which in turn is surrounded by an outer sheath, said pump light being received in said pump fiber at a light entrance end thereof, and said fiber core having a laser light exit at an end thereof opposite said light entrance end of said pump fiber where a laser light arising in said fiber core exits; and

at a last section of the pump fiber leading to said light exit, ~~said sheath being at least partially removed to allow~~ substantial remaining pump light to ~~escape~~ escapes from the pump fiber so that ~~and thus to reduce~~ pump light emitted with laser light at said laser light exit is reduced, since at said last section said sheath is at least partially removed.

37. (previously presented) The system according to claim 36 wherein the sheath at said last section is entirely removed.

38. (previously presented) The system according to claim 36 wherein at a region of said last section said sheath tapers in a wedge-like fashion toward said light exit.

39. (previously presented) The system according to claim 36 wherein at said last section said sheath is removed completely and an outer portion of said inner fiber portion is roughened where said sheath is completely removed leading to said laser light exit.